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NSC BRIEFING

14 July 1960

VENEZUELA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

I. OAS Council voted unanimously on 8 July (Venezuela and Dominican Republic abstaining) to call meeting of American foreign ministers to consider Venezuela's charges that Dominican Republic guilty of "aggression and intervention" because of involvement in attempted assassination of President Betancourt on 24 June.

A. Council also appointed five-nation committee to investigate charges prior to foreign ministers' meeting.

B. Vote probably reflects:

1. Strong presumption of Trujillo's involvement in assassination attempt among majority of OAS member nations and belief Venezuela has substantial proof to support its charges.
2. Some backing among Latin American nations for Betancourt's position that Dominican problem must take precedence over

25X1X Cuba in OAS.

II. [REDACTED] Venezuela

will insist on invoking all sanctions provided under Art. 8 of 1947 Rio Mutual Defense Pact against Trujillo regime with exception of military action but including breaking diplomatic and consular relations.
25X1X

A. [REDACTED] the eight Latin American nations who have no diplomatic relations with Dominican Republic will insist on stronger measures than recall of chiefs of diplomatic missions from Dominican Republic.

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1. These countries are Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Honduras.

III. Betancourt on 7 July repeated his willingness to assist in dealing with Castro "menace" after Trujillo's ouster.

- A. But Venezuelan position may be weakened by views of strongly pro-Castro Foreign Minister who has outlined a vague, general approach to Cuban problem which appears completely ineffective.
- B. Colombian President Lleras believes OAS action against Trujillo will set precedent.

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